

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 SS-20 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 191140Z OCT 73 ZDK

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0372

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: TUC DELEGATION VISITS DURBAN

REF: JOHANNESBURG 0948

1. BRITISH TUC DELEGATION MET BRIEFLY WITH NATAL EMPLOYERS AND LABOR LEADERS DURING ONE-DAY VISIT DURBAN OCT 18, WHICH INCLUDED TOUR SEVERAL LOCAL BRITISH FACTORIES. DELEGATES MET ON ARRIVAL BY DEMONSTRATING UNIV OF NATAL STUDENTS WHO QUESTIONED TUC SINCERITY VIS-A-VIS AFRICAN WORKERS AND WERE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF GROUP'S FAILURE SCHEDULE MEETINGS WITH AFRICAN UNION LEADERS. DURING VISIT WITH LOCAL TUCSA OFFICIALS, DELEGATES DID, HOWEVER, MEET WITH TUCSA-RUN CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, A SECRETARIAT WHICH ASSISTS NEWLY-FORMED AFRICAN UNIONS. AT THAT SESSION DELEGATION WAS TOLD OF DIFFICULTY AFRICAN UNIONS HAVING MAKING CONTACTS WITH BRITISH AND OTHER COMPANY MANAGEMENT.

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IN RESPONSE, TUC DELEGATION PROMISED IT WOULD TAKE UP

QUESTION RECOGNITION AFRICAN UNIONS BY SOUTH AFRICAN
SUBSIDIARIES OF BRITISH COMPANIES ON THEIR RETURN BRITAIN.

2. AT DAY'S END, DELEGATION LEADER VIC FEATHER TOLD NEWSMEN
THAT HE ENCOURAGED BY EMPLOYER ATTITUDES AND BY IMPROVEMENTS
IN AFRICAN HOUSING AND WORKING CONDITIONS. NEVERTHELESS,
MUCH REMAINED TO BE IMPROVED. EMPLOYERS HAD CLEARLY
INDICATED TO HIM, HE SAID, THEY PREPARED SEE PRESENT
LEGISLATION PRECLUDING FORMAL AFRICAN TRADE UNION RECOGNITION
ABROGATED. NONETHELESS, MOST EMPLOYERS FELT CONSTRAINED
BY PRESENT LEGISLATION TO LIMIT RECOGNITION TO AFRICAN
WORK COMMITTEES. REFERRING TO STUDENT DEMONSTRATION,
FEATHER SAID THEY WOULD BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED WHEN DELE-
GATION MADE ITS FINAL REPORT.

3. COMMENT: TUC DELEGATION VISIT TO DURBAN VIEWED AS
SUPERFICIAL BY STUDENT GROUP AS WELL AS OTHER OBSERVERS
NATAL LABOR SCENE WHO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED LONGER AND MORE
IN-DEPTH VISIT TO SITE OF MOST IMPORTANT AFRICAN LABOR
STRIKE TO DISTURB SOUTH AFRICA IN MANY YEARS.

HOLMES

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